

Citizens Academy of Planning

Session 8 – Streets and Walkable Communities



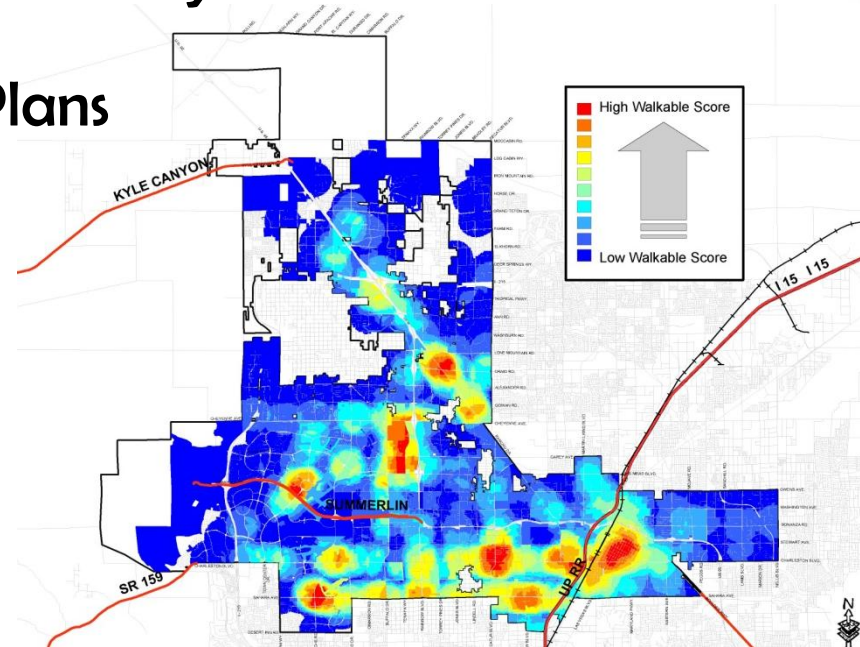
Flinn Fagg AICP, Acting Director

Streets and Walkable Communities



Session Overview

- Streets/Right-of-Way
- What is a Walkable Community
- Walkable Community Plans
- Questions



Walkability Study Map

Streets and Walkable Communities

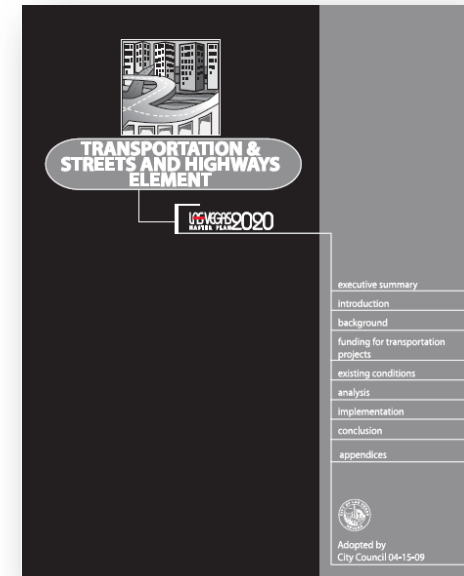


Streets/Right-of-Way

Streets and Highways

- The Transportation & Streets and Highways Element of the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan

The element provides a comprehensive analysis of the transportation infrastructure system within the city, and acts as a guide for decision makers to use when determining, prioritizing, and allocating resources for future projects.

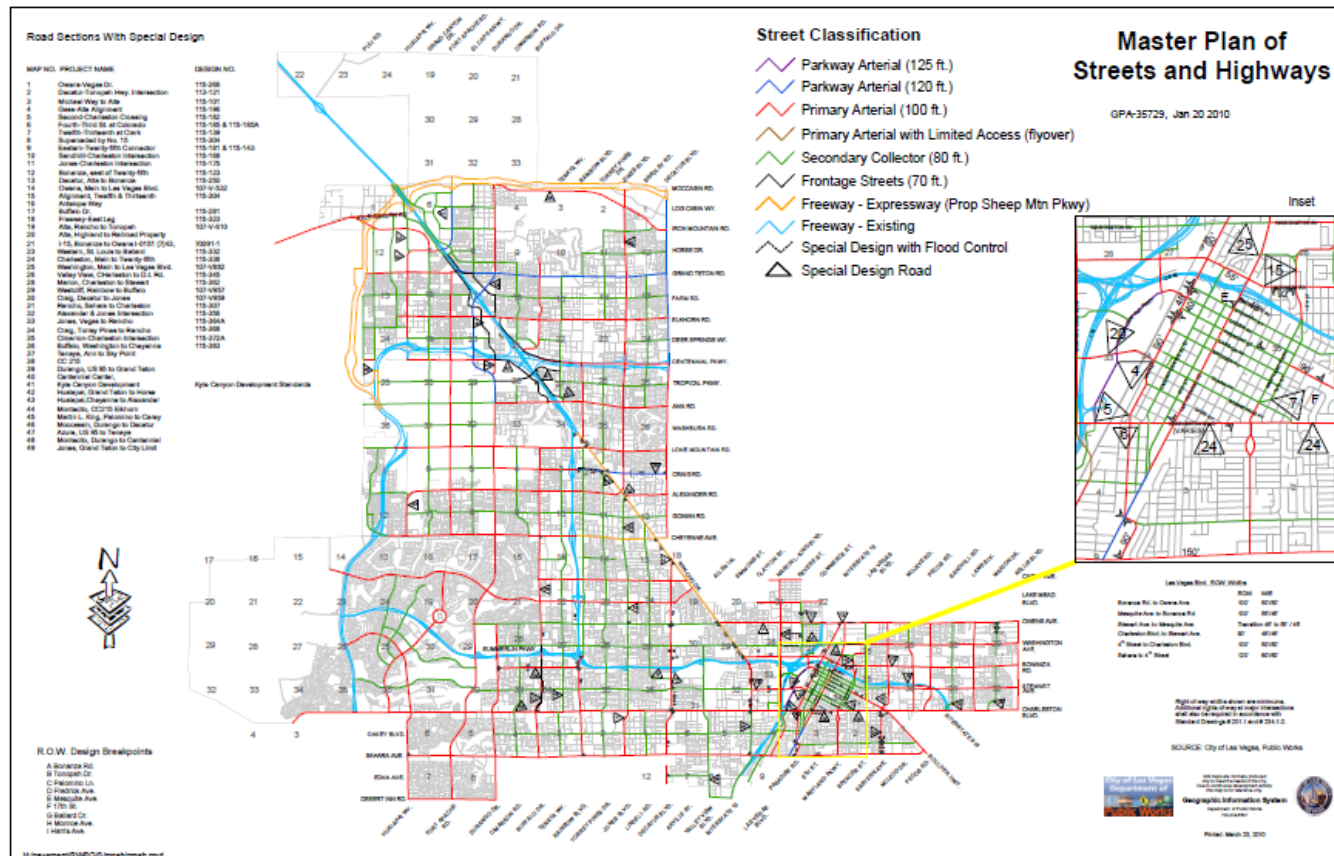


www.lasvegasnevada.gov/Publications/plans.htm

Streets and Walkable Communities

Streets/Right-of-Way

Master Plan of Streets and Highways



www.lasvegasnevada.gov/Publications/maps.htm

Streets and Walkable Communities

Streets/Right-of-Way

Right-of-Way – Who Takes Care of What



The city is responsible for things like:

- Street sweeping
- Storm drain cleaning
- Review and permitting of improvements within city ROW
- Design, construction and maintenance of most city streets



The transportation commission is responsible for things like:

- Serving as the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Managing the distribution of funds from federal, state and county programs for regional, street and highway construction



The state transportation department is responsible for things like:

- Planning, construction, operation and maintenance of the 5,400 miles of highway in the State of Nevada
- Supervising all state transportation activities within their district areas, such as activities on State Routes like SR 599 or SR 159 (also known as Rancho Dr or Charleston Blvd)

Streets and Walkable Communities



Streets/Right-of-Way

Responsibilities of Property Owners for adjacent Streets and Right-of-Way Improvements

- Municipal Code (Title 13) requires that whenever necessary to the health, safety, welfare and benefit of the public :
 - The property owner is to maintain and repair existing sidewalk abutting his property and
 - The property owner is to maintain the transition strip abutting his property

"Maintenance" means the upkeep, cleaning or preservation of the transition strip or existing sidewalk, including the trimming or removal of vegetation, which is necessary to insure the public health, safety, welfare and benefit. LVMC 13.56.020

Streets and Walkable Communities



Streets/Right-of-Way

Responsibilities within Private Streets and Gated Communities

- All maintenance of streets, lights, access controls, sidewalks and storm drains
- Funding of repair and replacement of infrastructure (i.e. new paving, replacement of light poles, etc.)
- Enforcement of HOA adopted safety or parking requirements

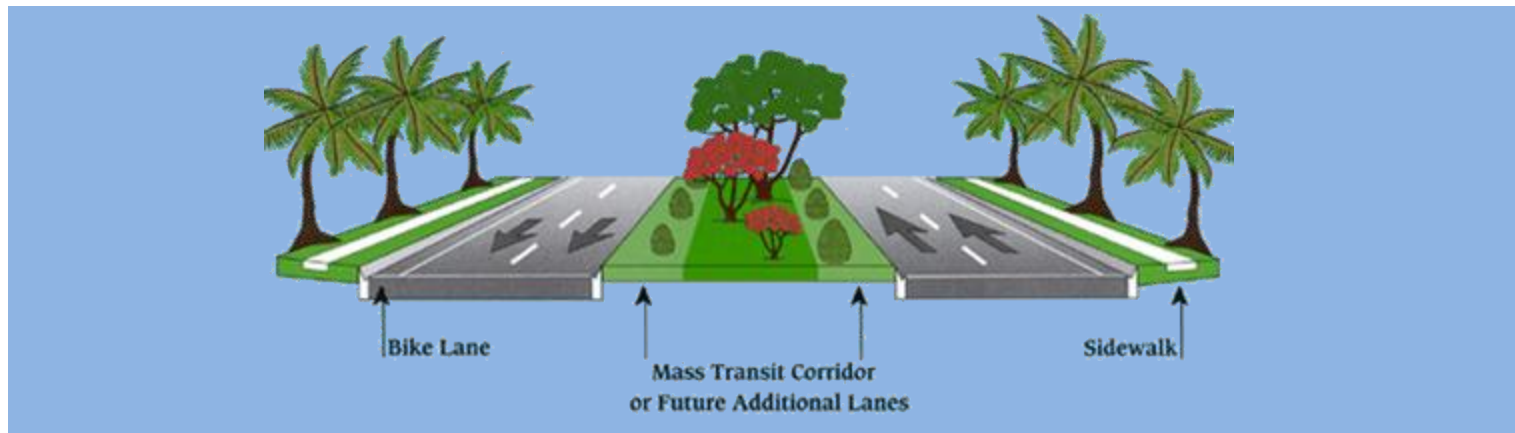


Streets and Walkable Communities

Streets/Right-of-Way

Roadway Medians – What are They and How are They Maintained

- Medians are used to divide traffic, usually separating higher speed vehicles traveling in opposite directions
- Medians may be striped, raised with curbing, landscaped or paved over and usually include left turn pockets where turns are allowed
- Medians are also used as place holders for additional capacity down the “road” when additional travel lanes or dedicated transit is anticipated. This approach limits the need for later ROW dedications or takings



Streets and Walkable Communities

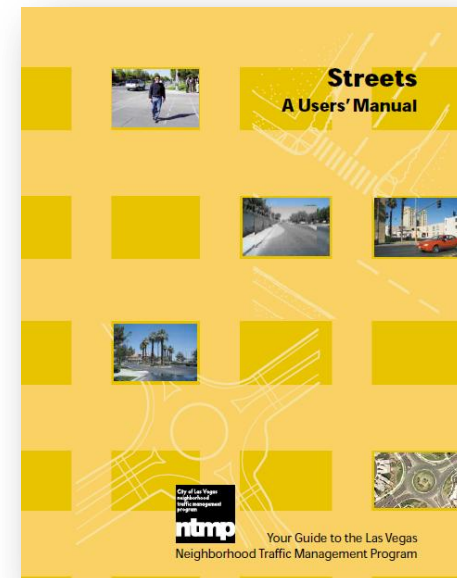


Streets/Right-of-Way

Streets and Highways

➤ The Neighborhood Traffic Management Program

The City of Las Vegas Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) was adopted by the City Council in 1995 to assist residents with traffic mitigation in their neighborhoods. In an effort to make streets safer and preserve livability of older neighborhoods, citizens are encouraged to meet and decide upon specific mitigation measures for which their streets may qualify. Controls may include, but are not limited to, traffic mini-circles, full and partial street closures, speed humps and chokers.



www.lasvegasnevada.gov/information/20969.htm

Streets and Walkable Communities

Streets/Right-of-Way

Speed Bumps



Streets and Walkable Communities

Streets/Right-of-Way

Other Traffic Calming Measures



Roundabout



Radar Speed Sign



Chicane



Raised Intersection



Rain Garden Chicane
and Median

Streets and Walkable Communities



Streets/Right-of-Way

Traffic Signals and Stop Signs

- Warrants are required for new traffic signals and stop signs
- If the location passes the engineering study, the new traffic signal site goes on a priority list and the ranking on the list is determined by the traffic volume figures and accident history.
- Impact fees are assessed for new development within the City and are generally collected on the building permit.



Streets and Walkable Communities



Streets/Right-of-Way

Traffic Impact Analysis

- Traffic studies are often required for new development in the city and generally must be submitted and approved prior to the issuance of any building or grading permits
- Results of the analysis may require additional turn lanes, traffic signals, or other measures to mitigate congestion and other traffic related concerns

Streets and Walkable Communities

Streets/Right-of-Way

Streets and Highways

➤ The Unified Development Code – Chapter 19.04 (Complete Streets Standards)

The purpose of this Chapter is to set forth requirements for achieving a connected transportation system as outlined in the City's General Plan to provide a safe and accessible environment for a variety of transportation modes and users.

It includes street sections for various street types and illustrates requirements for medians, bike lanes and streetscape amenities.

19.04.200

80' MAJOR COLLECTOR STREET

A street which has a minimum right-of-way width of eighty feet and an existing or potential design capacity of two travel lanes of traffic in each direction with a center turn lane or raised median with left turn pockets.

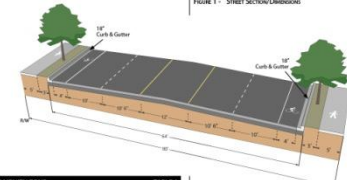


TABLE 1 AMENITY ZONE (See Section 19.04.10)	
A. Utility & Mechanical Rooms	Above ground utilities shall be placed outside of the right-of-way.
B. Street Lights	Shall be placed in the amenity zone in accordance with the fire code.
C. Fire Hydrants	Shall be placed in the amenity zone in accordance with the fire code.
D. Tree Placement *	Trees shall be placed within amenity zone to provide maximum shade of the sidewalk.
E. Tree Spacing	40 feet on center.
F. Sidewalk Width	5 feet.
Maintenance	Maintenance of the amenity zone shall be the responsibility of the adjacent property owners.

Footnotes:
1. * Exempted within the right-of-way, above ground utilities shall be located in the amenity zone.
2. Street light standards and permitted underground dry utilities shall be located under the sidewalk.
3. In addition to any landscaping standards provided in this Title, all planting within the right-of-way must comply with UDC Chapter 19.04.

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Chapter 19.04



Illustrations & Graphics

19.04.200

Figure 1 - Street Section/Overview

Figure 2 - Amenity Zone - Street and Public Safety Features

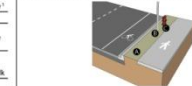


Figure 3 - Amenity Zone - Landscaping/Severance



City of Las Vegas
Unified Development Code
March 16, 2011

Streets and Walkable Communities



- APA “Great Places” award program started in 2007
- Confers awards to great neighborhoods, great streets



Streets and Walkable Communities

Qualities of Great Neighborhoods



- Functional attributes of day-to-day living
- Accommodates multiple modes of transportation
- Visually interesting design and architecture; memorable character
- Encourages human contact and social activities
- Promotes sustainability

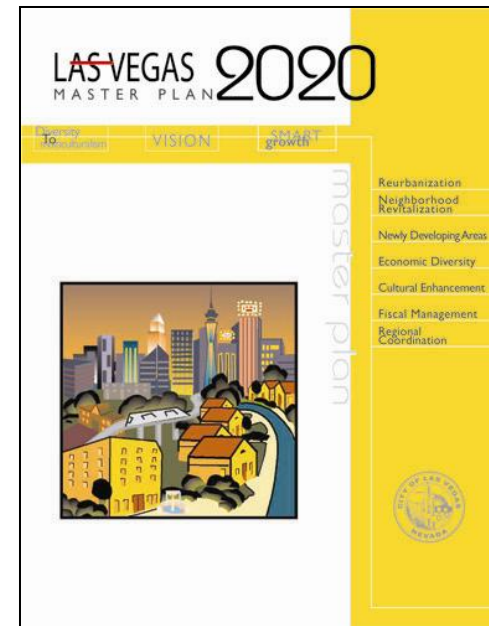


Streets and Walkable Communities

Why Great Communities?

Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan:

- Walkable communities be promoted in areas of reinvestment
- Distinguish neighborhoods through urban design
- Continue to improve streetscape enhancements in urbanized areas
- Evaluate potential for improvements that will make neighborhoods more desirable



Streets and Walkable Communities



Why Great Communities?

Climate Protection Resolution (R-57-2006)

- Adopt policies that create walkable communities
- Promote transportation options
- Reduce emissions
- Promote tree planting to increase shading



Streets and Walkable Communities

Why Great Communities?



Neighborhoods of Lasting Value:

- Preserve value for residents
- Maintain and enhance the city's tax base

are we building this...



...or this?



Streets and Walkable Communities



Walkable Communities Are Great Communities

Great communities:

- Have the functional attributes of day-to-day living
- Accommodate multiple modes of transportation
- Encourage human contact and social activities
- Promote sustainability



Streets and Walkable Communities



Why Walkable Communities?

Benefits:

- Convenience for residents
- Encourage alternative transportation modes
- Reduced congestion, VMT's
- Improved air quality
- Increased tree canopy
- Health benefits for children, adults



Streets and Walkable Communities



What Makes a Community Walkable?

Pedestrian facilities: Sidewalks, shade, safety



Streets and Walkable Communities



What Makes a Community Walkable?

Amenities: Grocery store, drugstore, restaurants, schools, parks, library



Streets and Walkable Communities

Walkscore

- www.walkscore.com evaluates neighborhoods based on walking access to the needs of daily life
- 100 = most walkable; 0 = least walkable



Walk Score™ Find a Walkable Place to Live.

Walkable Neighborhoods | Why Walk? | Walkability | How It Works | How It Doesn't Work | Real Estate Services | Blog

Type an address to get your Walk Score™

Address: Go

What is Walk Score?

We help you find a walkable place to live by calculating a Walk Score for any address.

1. Type an address

Street Address:
88 Bedford St, New
2. See what's nearby
 
3. Get your Walk Score

Walk Score: 91 out of 100

World  Best

Grocery stores: Hercules Fancy Groc. 0.08 mi

Restaurants: 

Walk Score Ranks 40 Largest U.S. Cities

As suburban home prices decline, there's never been a better time to live in a walkable neighborhood.

We rank 2,508 neighborhoods to help you find a walkable place to live.

[View the Rankings](#)

1 
San Francisco, CA

2 
New York, NY

3 
Boston, MA

4 
Chicago, IL

Streets and Walkable Communities

Walkscore

Hubbard, OR

17950 Boones Ferry Road

Walkscore: 3



Miami Beach, FL

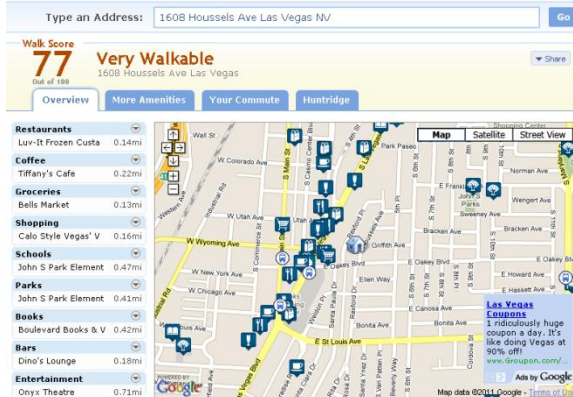
1254 Drexel Avenue

Walkscore: 97

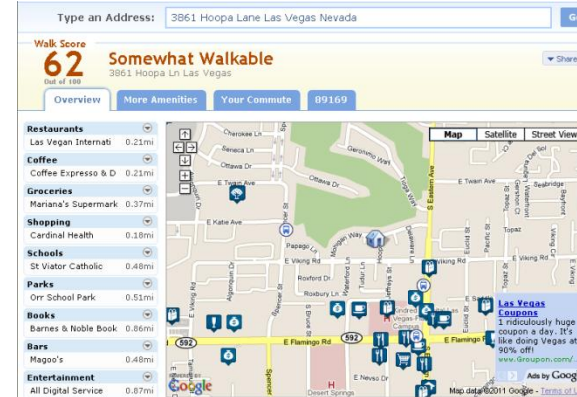


Streets and Walkable Communities

What is your neighborhood's walkscore?



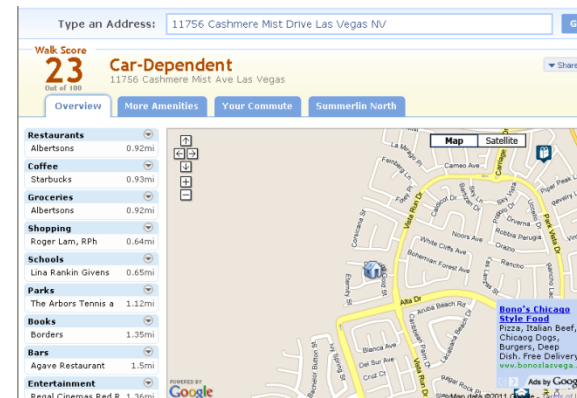
Courtney: 77



Dave: 62



Doug: 60



Tom: 23

Streets and Walkable Communities

What is your neighborhood's walkscore?


- Flinn
- Walkscore: 58

Type an Address:

Walk Score
58
Out of 100

Somewhat Walkable
636 Tam O Shanter Las Vegas

Category	Name	Distance
Restaurants	Benihana	0.27mi
	Fortuna	0.27mi
Coffee	Fortuna	0.27mi
	Kwiky Mini Mart	0.28mi
Groceries	Syrup	0.04mi
	Trinity Internation	0.53mi
Shopping	Las Vegas Race Trac	0.32mi
	BRB Rare Books & Ma	0.71mi
Schools	RamRod LV	0.27mi
	Insurgo Theater Mov	0.39mi
Parks		
Books		
Bars		
Entertainment		



Las Vegas Coupons
1 ridiculously huge coupon a day. It's like doing Vegas at 90% off!
www.Groupon.com/...

Ads by Google

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Streets and Walkable Communities



Walkable elements

– My neighborhood is within walking distance of:

- Bank
- Grocery store
- Gym
- Drugstore
- Dry cleaners
- Restaurants



Streets and Walkable Communities



Walkable elements

...but lacks adequate pedestrian facilities



Walkable elements

- Average daily vehicle trips per household: 9.57
- If my 72 neighbors and I were able to accomplish half of our daily trips by walking, it would result in:
 - Less congestion - 344 fewer vehicles on the road
 - Less pollutants – improved air quality
 - Reduced demand on resources
 - Financial savings
 - Improved health of residents
 - Implements sustainability goals

Streets and Walkable Communities



How Do We Start?

- **New neighborhoods:** Uniform Development Code will encourage walkable neighborhoods through connectivity standards, street standards
- **Existing neighborhoods:** Develop Walkable Community Plans that enhance existing facilities and neighborhood amenities



Streets and Walkable Communities

How Are Walkable Community Areas Selected?

5 types of walkable neighborhoods:

(Christopher Leinberger – ULI)

1. Traditional downtown (Downtown)
2. Downtown adjacent (West Las Vegas)
3. Suburban town center (Centennial Hills)
4. Suburban redevelopment
5. Suburban greenfield (Kyle Canyon)



Streets and Walkable Communities

How Are Walkable Community Areas Selected?

Existing Community Qualities:

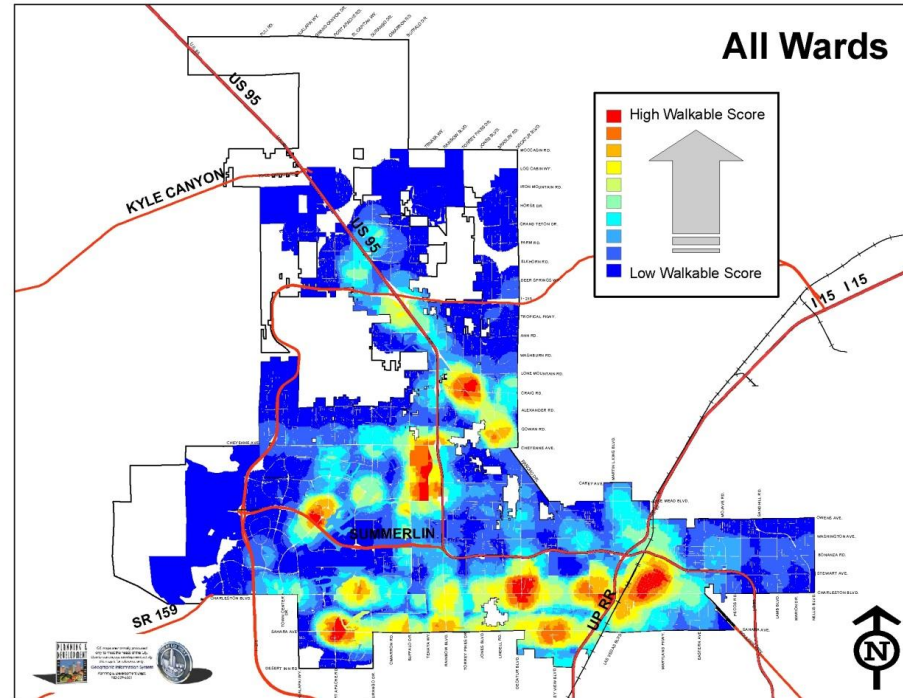
- Density – single & multifamily
- Close proximity to commercial
- Civic amenities
- Transit opportunities
- Potential for implementation



Streets and Walkable Communities

How Are Walkable Community Areas Selected?

Identify existing areas with “good bones”



Streets and Walkable Communities



What is a Walkable Community Plan?

Walkable Community Plans:

- Develop boundaries of plan area (10-minute walk)
- Assess existing conditions
- Work with residents to identify needed improvements: sidewalk network, shade, crosswalks, etc.
- Develop an implementation plan
- Pursue grants and other funding opportunities



Streets and Walkable Communities



What is a Walkable Community Plan?

Assessment of existing conditions:

- Sidewalk network
- Bike lanes
- Shade/street trees
- Crosswalks
- Transit/bus shelters
- Neighborhood amenities/land use



Streets and Walkable Communities



What is a Walkable Community Plan?

Public input:

- Destinations
- Safety
- Comfort
- Amenities
- Enhancements



Streets and Walkable Communities

What is a Walkable Community Plan?

Implementation:

- List of action items
- Adoption by City Council
- Coordination with capital projects
- Seek grant funding for “shovel-ready” projects



Streets and Walkable Communities



Meadows Walkable Community Plan



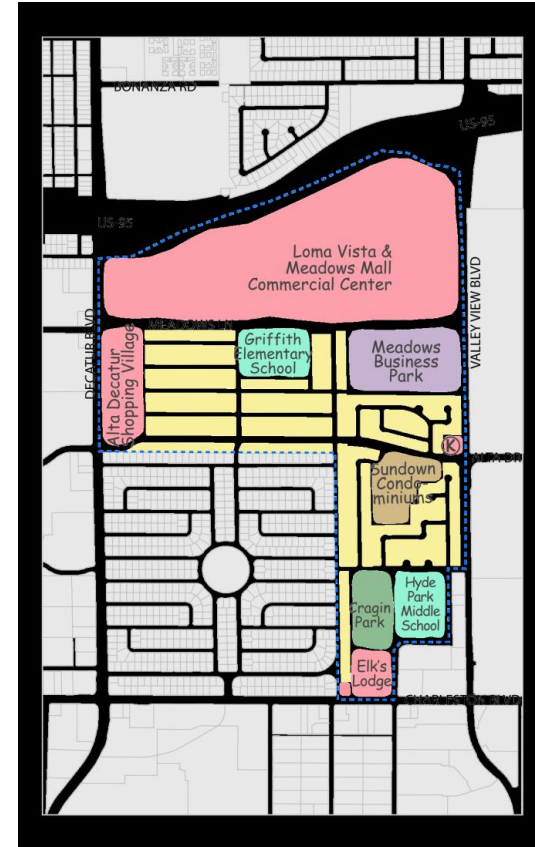
Streets and Walkable Communities



Meadows Walkable Community Plan

Amenities:

- Park, YMCA, Springs Preserve
- 2 Schools
- Banks, drug store, retail
- Restaurants
- Regional mall
- General office, medical office



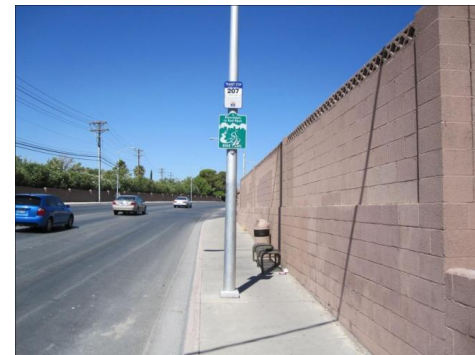
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Public Input: Meadows



Residents suggested the following:

- Crosswalks and sidewalks on Meadows Lane; opening in wall for pedestrians
- Shade trees along sidewalks
- Improve/add crosswalks
- Slow traffic, add medians, distinguish bicycle lanes on Alta
- Benches for people to rest
- Additional bus shelters
- Personal safety issues (crime)
- Grocery store to replace Von's



Streets and Walkable Communities

Recommendations: Meadows



Action items:

- Street-by-street recommendations
- Connectivity – continuous pedestrian & bike routes
- Safe circulation – crosswalks, lighting
- Comfort – shade, benches
- Uses – needs, redevelopment opportunities



Streets and Walkable Communities



Sahara West Walkable Community Plan



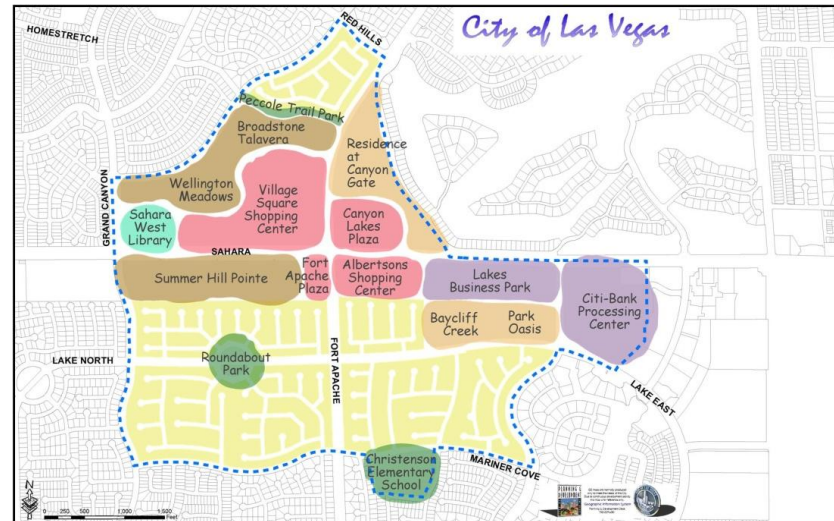
Streets and Walkable Communities



Sahara West Walkable Community Plan

Amenities:

- Library, parks
- School
- Banks, drug stores, retail
- Grocery store
- Restaurants
- Movie theater
- General office, medical offices



Streets and Walkable Communities



Public Input: Sahara West

Residents suggested the following:

- Complete the sidewalk network
- Install additional crosswalks on Ft. Apache, make crosswalks safer
- Reduce traffic speeds
- Provide pedestrian bridge over Sahara to bus stop across from Citibank
- Additional pedestrian lighting needed
- Bus stop at Sahara & Ft. Apache is too close to the intersection
- Need additional shade trees along sidewalk



Streets and Walkable Communities

Recommendations: Sahara West

Action items:

- Street-by-street recommendations
- Connectivity – uninterrupted pedestrian/bike routes
- Safe circulation – crosswalks, lighting
- Comfort – shade, benches
- Uses – needs, redevelopment opportunities



Streets and Walkable Communities



Walkable Community Plans

- Implement the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan
- Accomplish the goals of the strategic plan
- Implement sustainability
- Create great communities



Streets and Walkable Communities



Conclusion

- Questions?



Streets and Walkable Communities

Next Week:

